



# THE WALKING DEAD

35

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IMAGE COMICS PRESENTS

# THE WALKING

# DEAD™

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Letterer

**Previously:**

After living through hell, Rick, Glenn and Michonne along with newcomers Martinez and Alice made the long and dangerous trek back to the prison--their safe haven. Upon returning home, they found the prison gates open and the prison grounds overrun with the walking dead.

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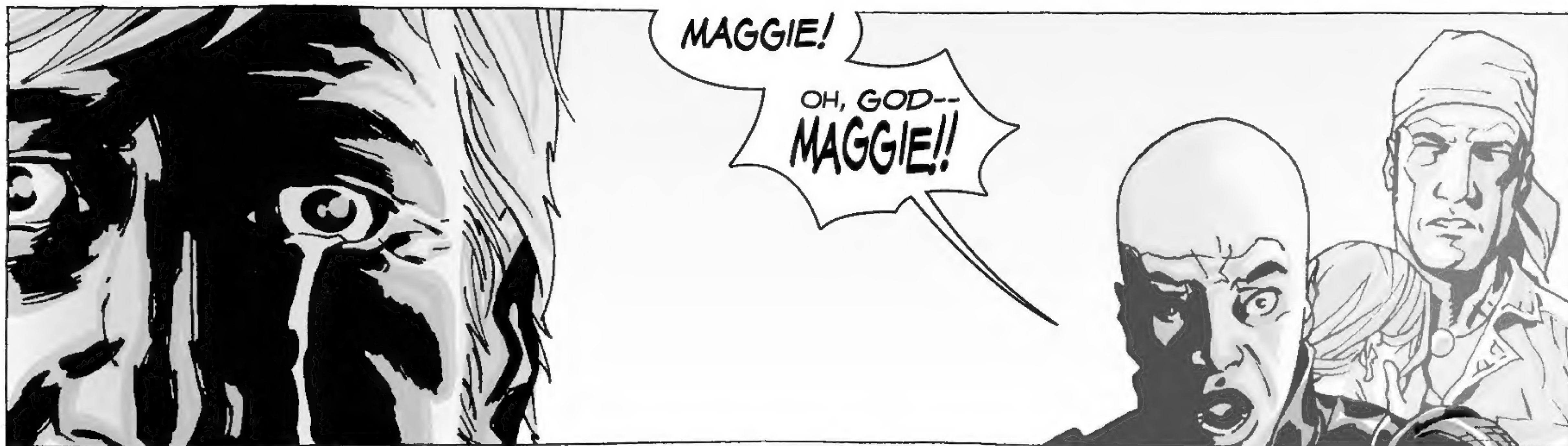
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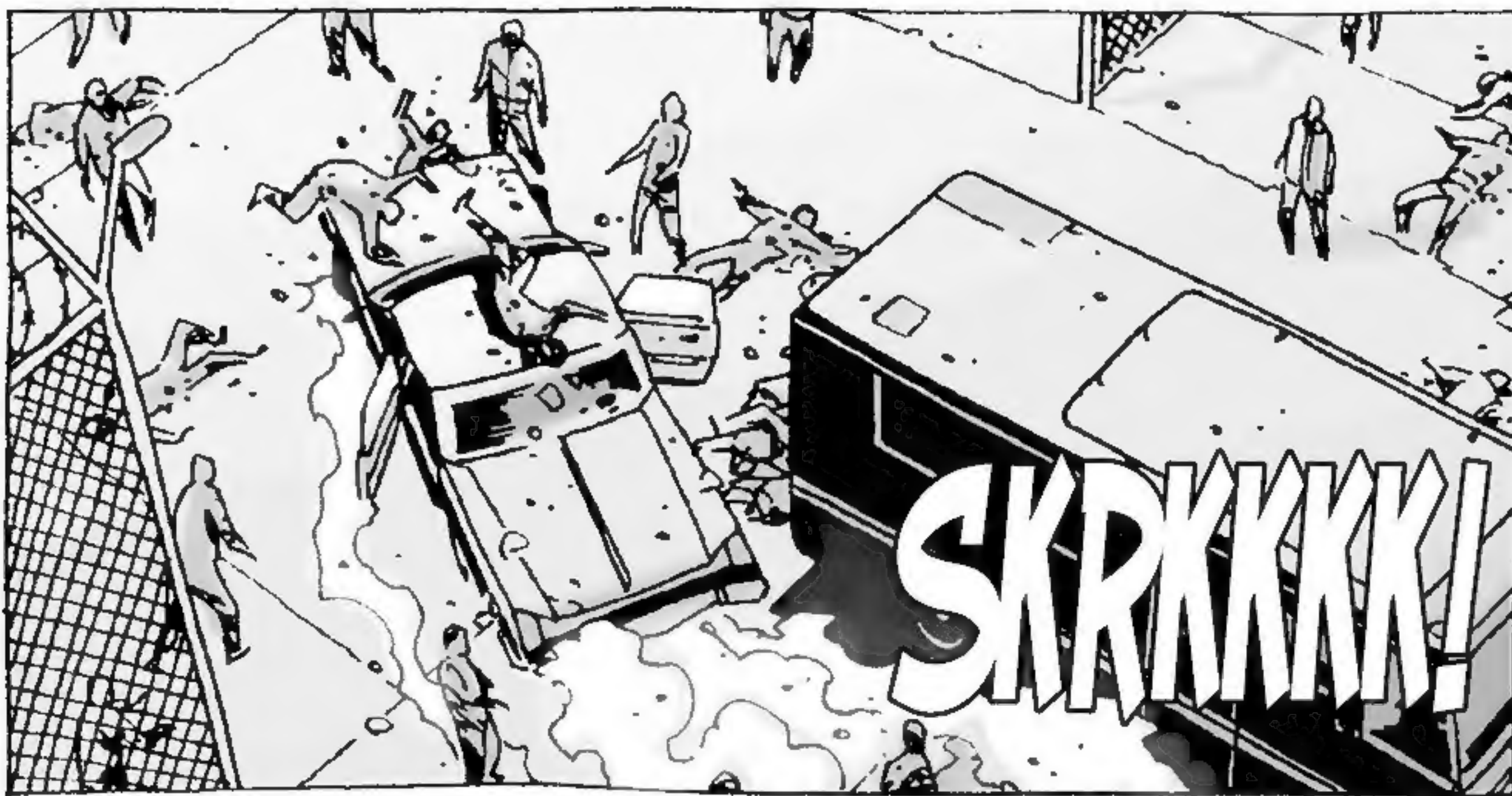
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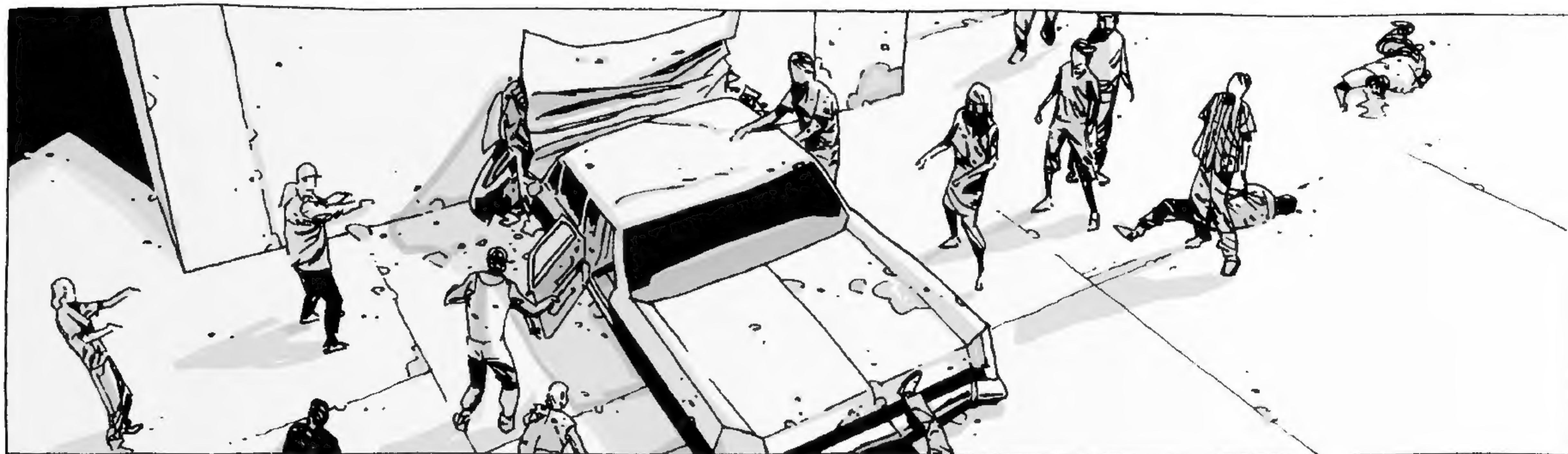
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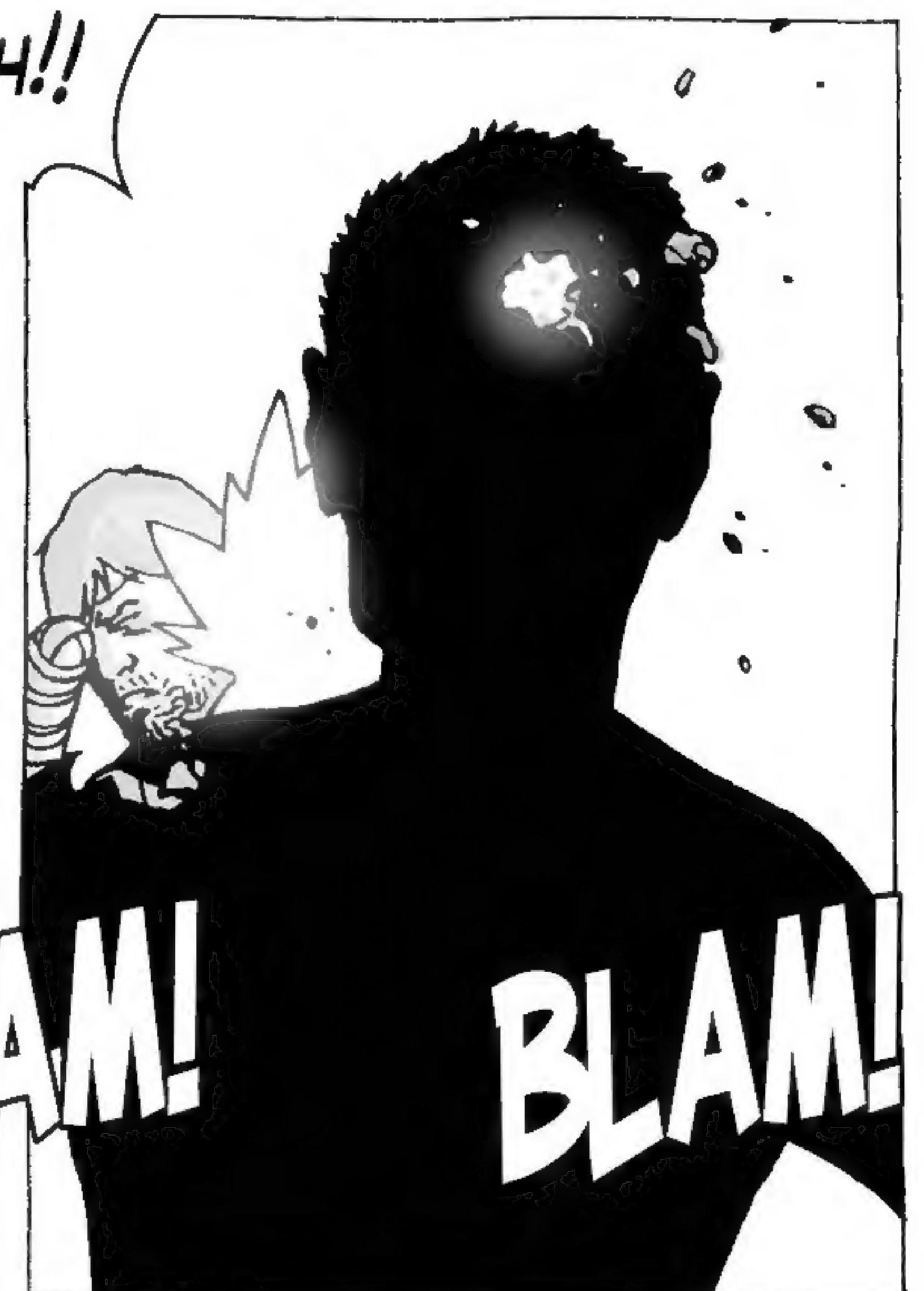
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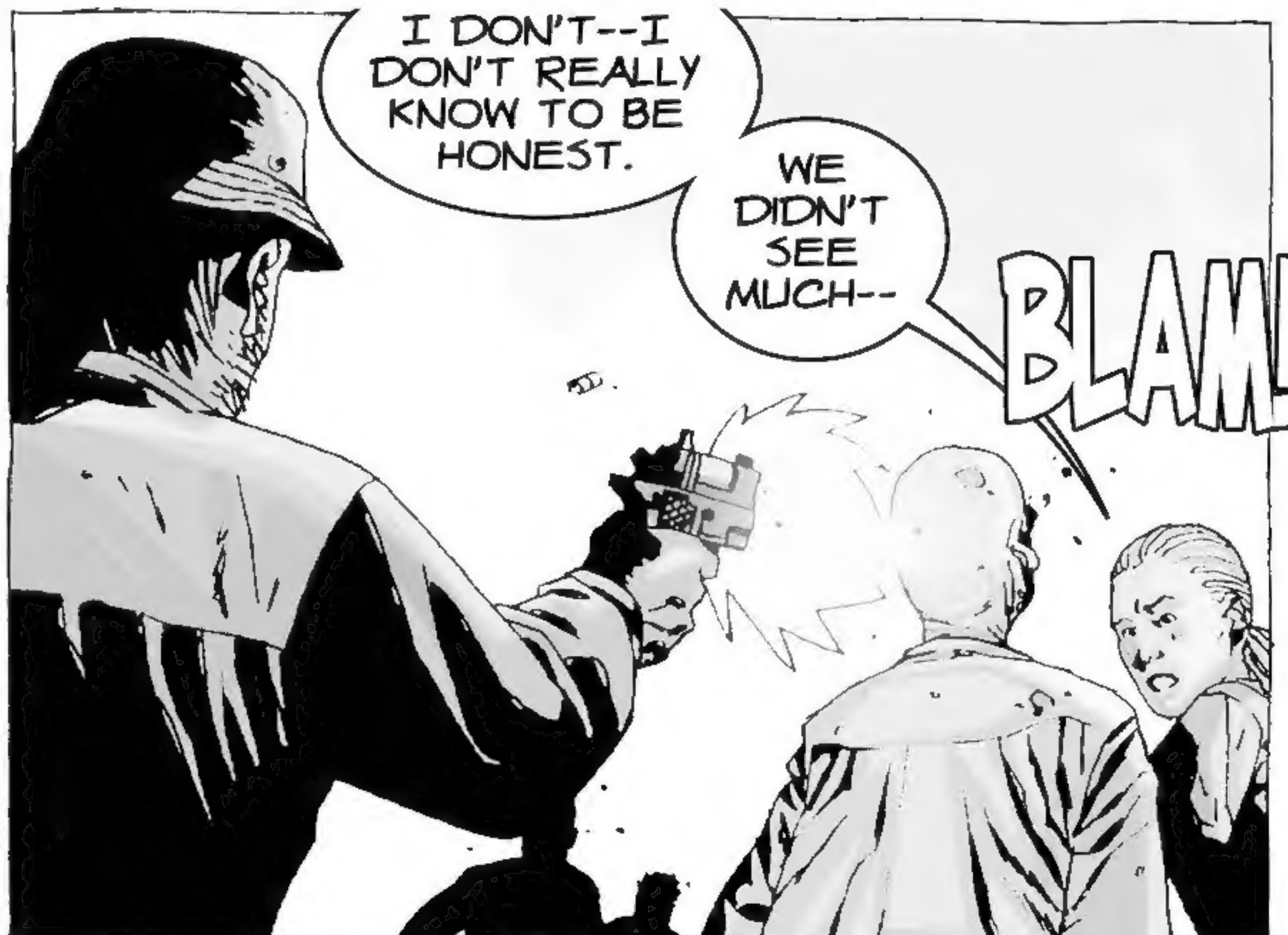
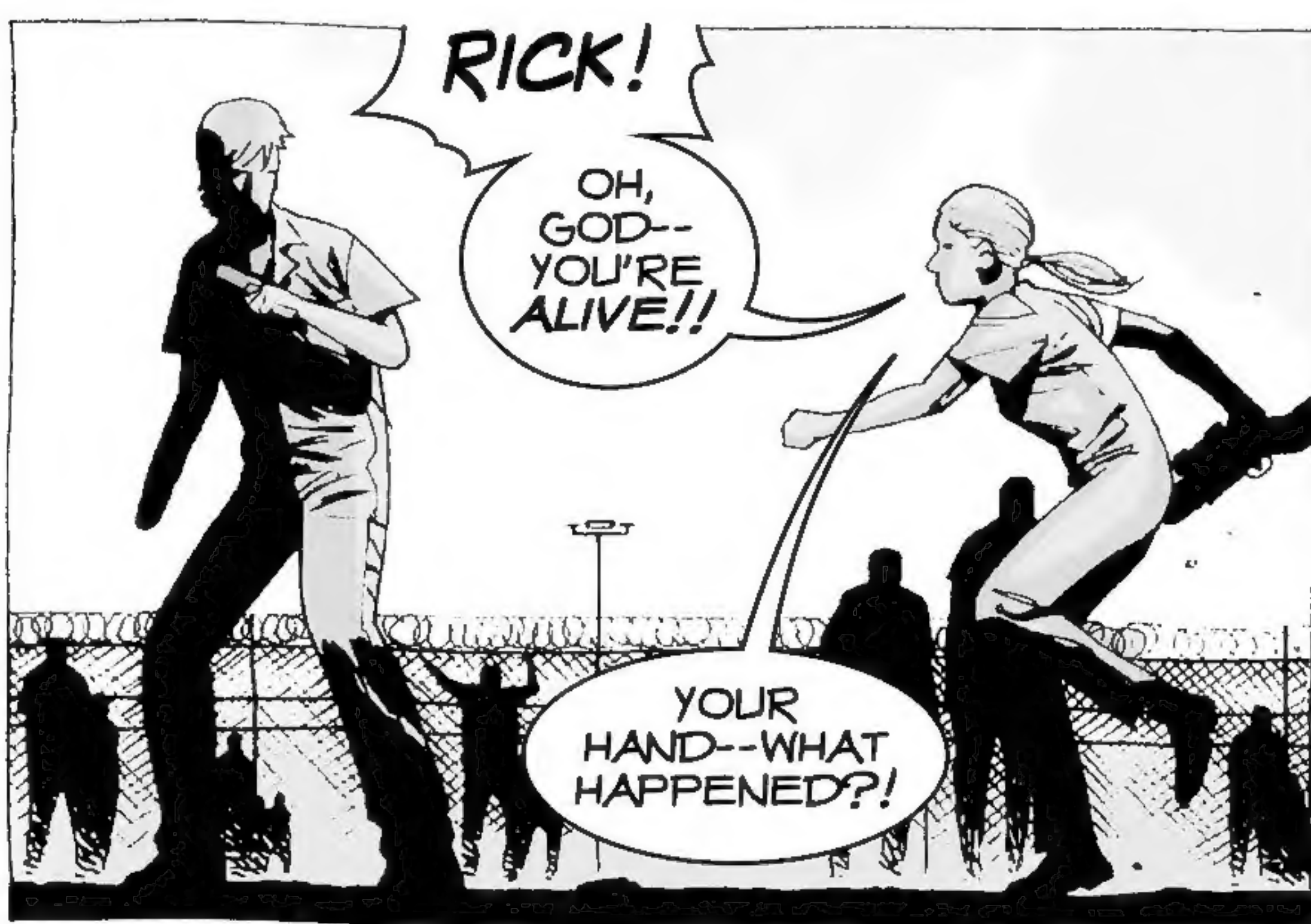












I SAW OTIS GET ATTACKED--  
I KNOW HE DIDN'T MAKE IT.  
HERSHEL WAS BITTEN--I SAW  
THAT. LORI, CARL--THE REST--  
THEY WERE TRYING TO MAKE  
IT BACK TO C-BLOCK WHEN  
ANDREA AND I DUCKED  
AWAY IN THE RV. WE  
COULDN'T GET TO THEM--  
THEY COULDN'T GET  
TO US.

I CAN  
ONLY ASSUME  
THEY MADE  
IT.

HOW DID THIS  
HAPPEN?

SHUKK!!

BLAM!

TYREESE WENT OUT TO  
LOOK FOR YOU GUYS--  
WHEN HE CAME BACK WE  
WERE SO FOCUSED ON  
GETTING HIM INSIDE  
BEFORE THEY ATTACKED  
HIM WE DIDN'T THINK  
AND--

WE CAN  
TALK  
LATER!

LOOK, WE WERE CUT OFF--  
SURROUNDED AND HAD TO  
HIDE IN THE RV. WE'VE BEEN  
WAITING FOR THEM TO SPREAD  
OUT SO WE CAN MAKE  
IT TO THE GUARD  
TOWER.

I'VE GOT  
AMMO UP THERE--  
I CAN JUST SIT  
THERE AND PICK  
THEM OFF ALL DAY.  
I'M GOING TO DO  
THAT... IF YOU GUYS  
WANT TO JOIN ME--  
LET'S GO!

POKK!

I'M WORKING MY WAY  
INSIDE--I'VE GOT TO  
FIND OUT HOW EVERYONE  
IS. I'VE GOT TO SEE  
CARL AND LORI. I'LL KILL  
AS MANY AS I CAN  
ON THE WAY.

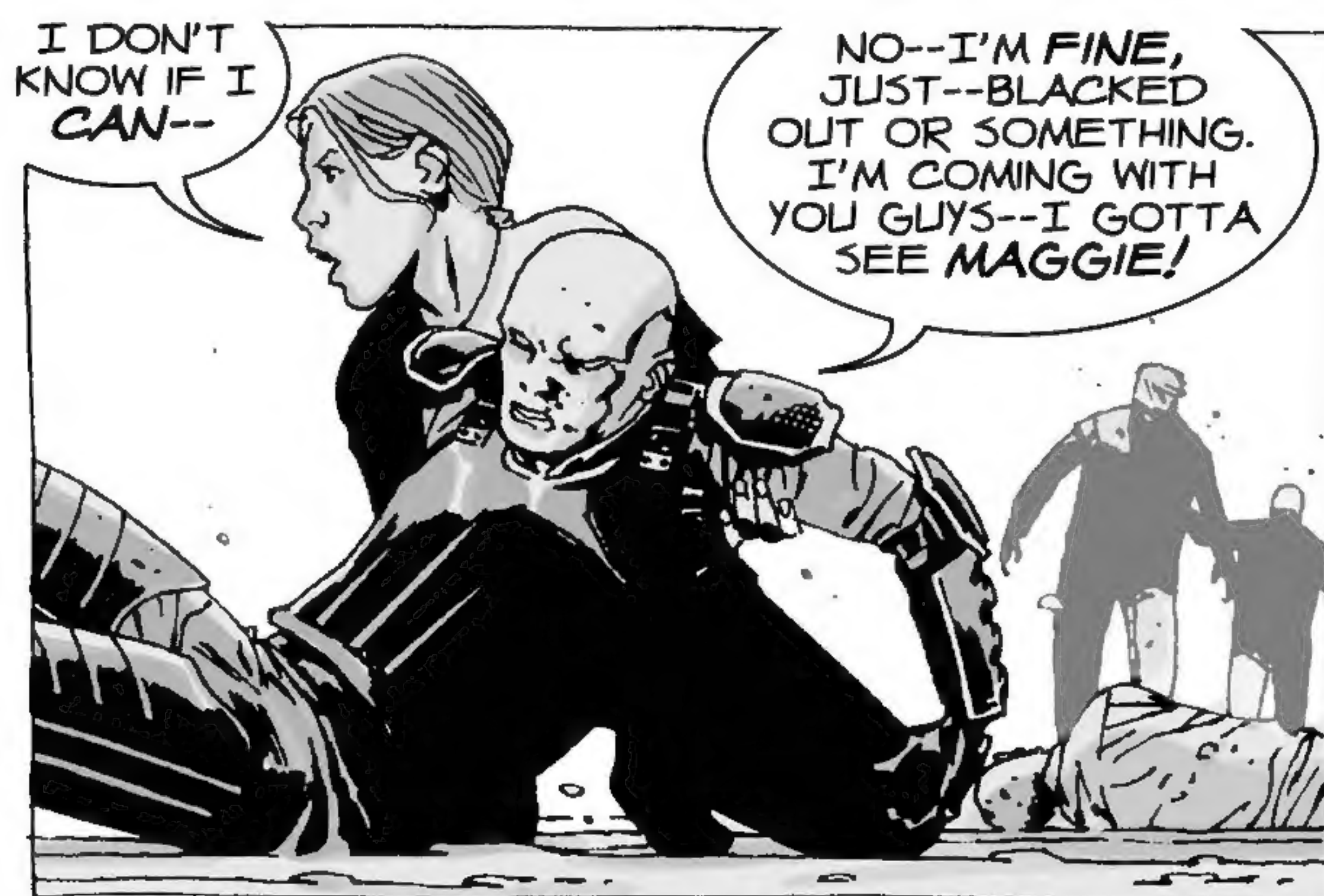
I'LL  
COVER YOUR  
ASS--I'M  
WITH YOU.

I'LL KEEP AN  
EYE ON YOU FROM  
ABOVE. I'LL BE ABLE  
TO PICK OFF ANY THAT  
GET TOO CLOSE AS  
SOON AS I GET  
UP TOP.

BLAM!

NAME'S MARTINEZ.  
I HOPE YOU'RE GOOD  
WITH THAT RIFLE--  
YOU'VE GOT A DAMN  
MESS DOWN  
HERE.

I SEE  
YOU BROUGHT  
FRIENDS.

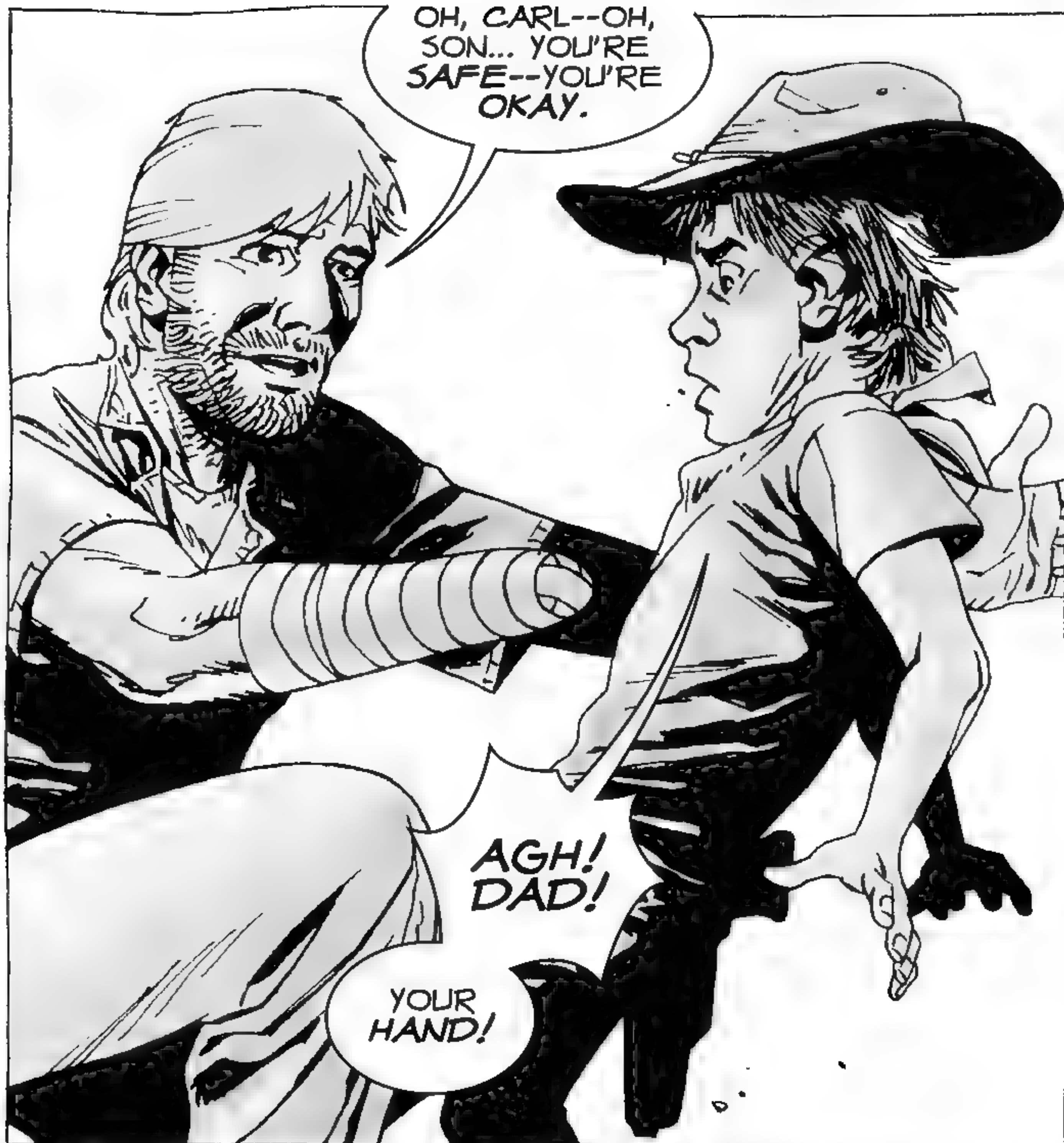








DADDY!



OH, CARL--OH, SON... YOU'RE SAFE--YOU'RE OKAY.

AGH! DAD!

YOUR HAND!



OH, RICK--WHAT HAPPENED?



I--THERE WAS AN ACCIDENT.

YOU WEREN'T BITTEN WERE YOU, DAD? TELL ME YOU WEREN'T BITTEN!



NO, DON'T WORRY. I WASN'T BITTEN. I'M GOING TO BE FINE, SON.



I GOTTA GO. I GOTTA MAKE SURE MAGGIE'S OKAY.

SHE WAS IN HER ROOM A MINUTE AGO-- SHE'S FINE. SHE'LL BE HAPPY TO SEE YOU.

TYREESE, GOOD. YOU GOTTA GO GATHER EVERYONE UP. WE NEED TO GET STARTED ON CLEARING THIS PLACE OUT.

ANDREA AND DALE ARE ALREADY UP ON ONE OF THE GUARD TOWERS. WE NEED TO GET SOMEONE ELSE ON TOP OF THE OTHER ONES AND START PICKING THESE THINGS OFF WHILE THE REST OF US--

YEAH--I'M GOING TO GET RIGHT ON THAT--BUT YOU-- YOU ARE SITTING THIS ONE OUT.

WHAT?

YOU'RE *DISABLED*, RICK. IT'S A MIRACLE YOU MADE IT BACK TO THIS DOOR, ALIVE. YOU CAN SHOOT A GUN, YES-- BUT YOU CAN'T PUSH A ZOMBIE AWAY WITH THE OTHER HAND IF THEY GET CLOSE.

AT BEST YOU CAN THROW AN ELBOW AT THEM BUT YOU HAVE TO GET IN TOO CLOSE TO DO THAT. YOU'RE *DONE* WITH THAT.

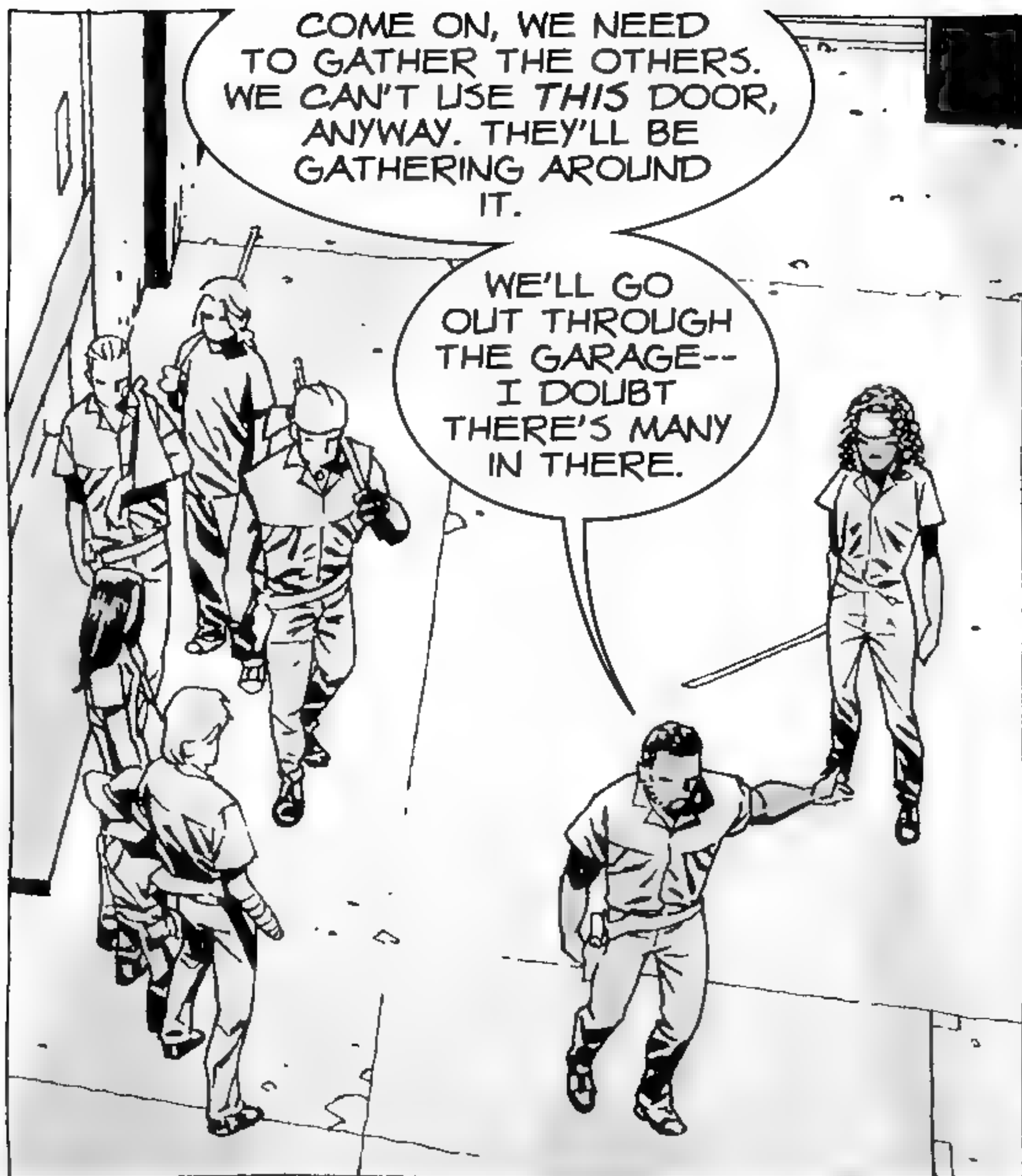
YOU'LL GET BITTEN IF YOU GO OUT THERE-- AND I WON'T LET THAT HAPPEN.

THAT'S *ABSRD*. I CAN STILL KICK THEM--I CAN STILL RUN--YOU'RE GIVING ME *ORDERS* NOW?

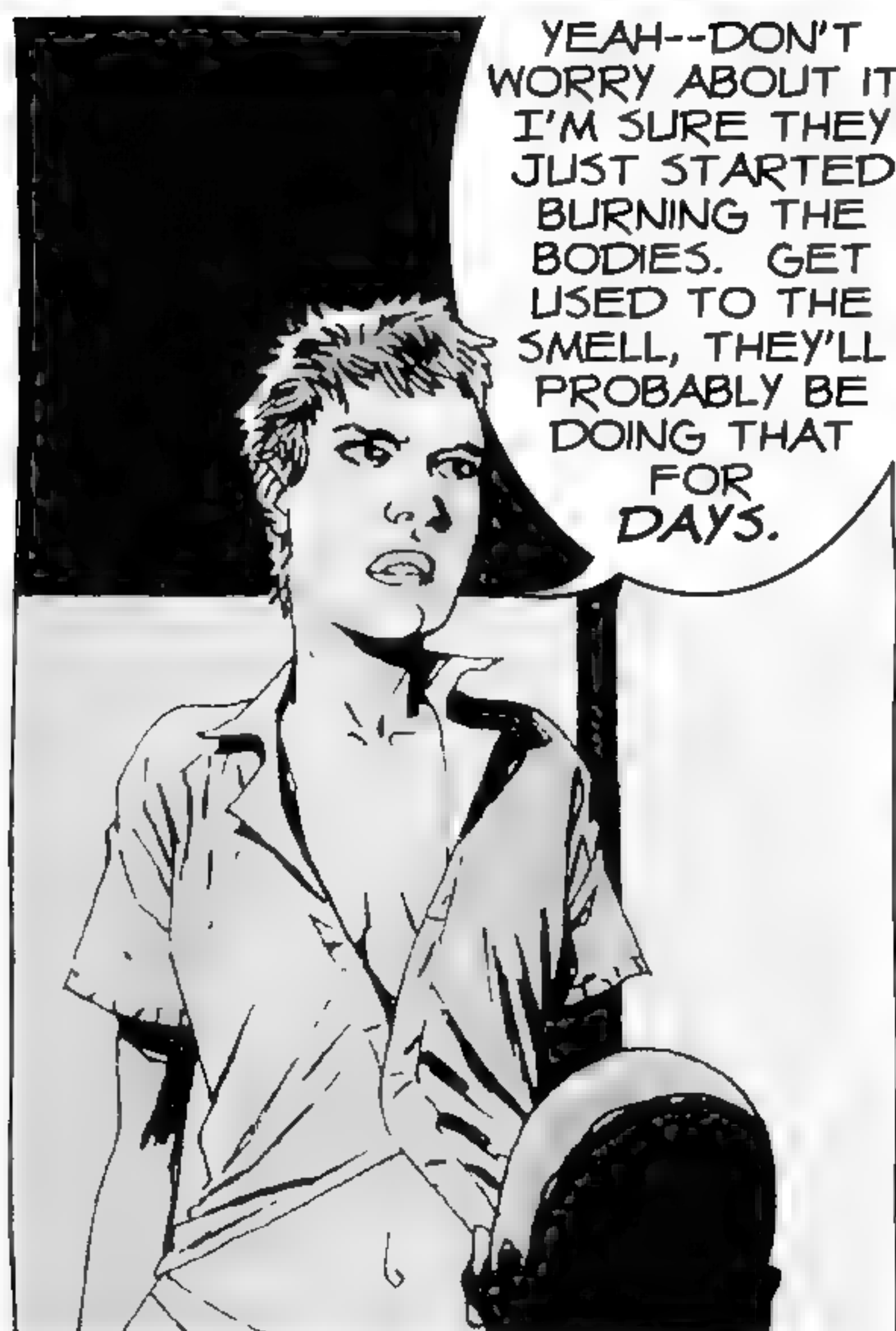
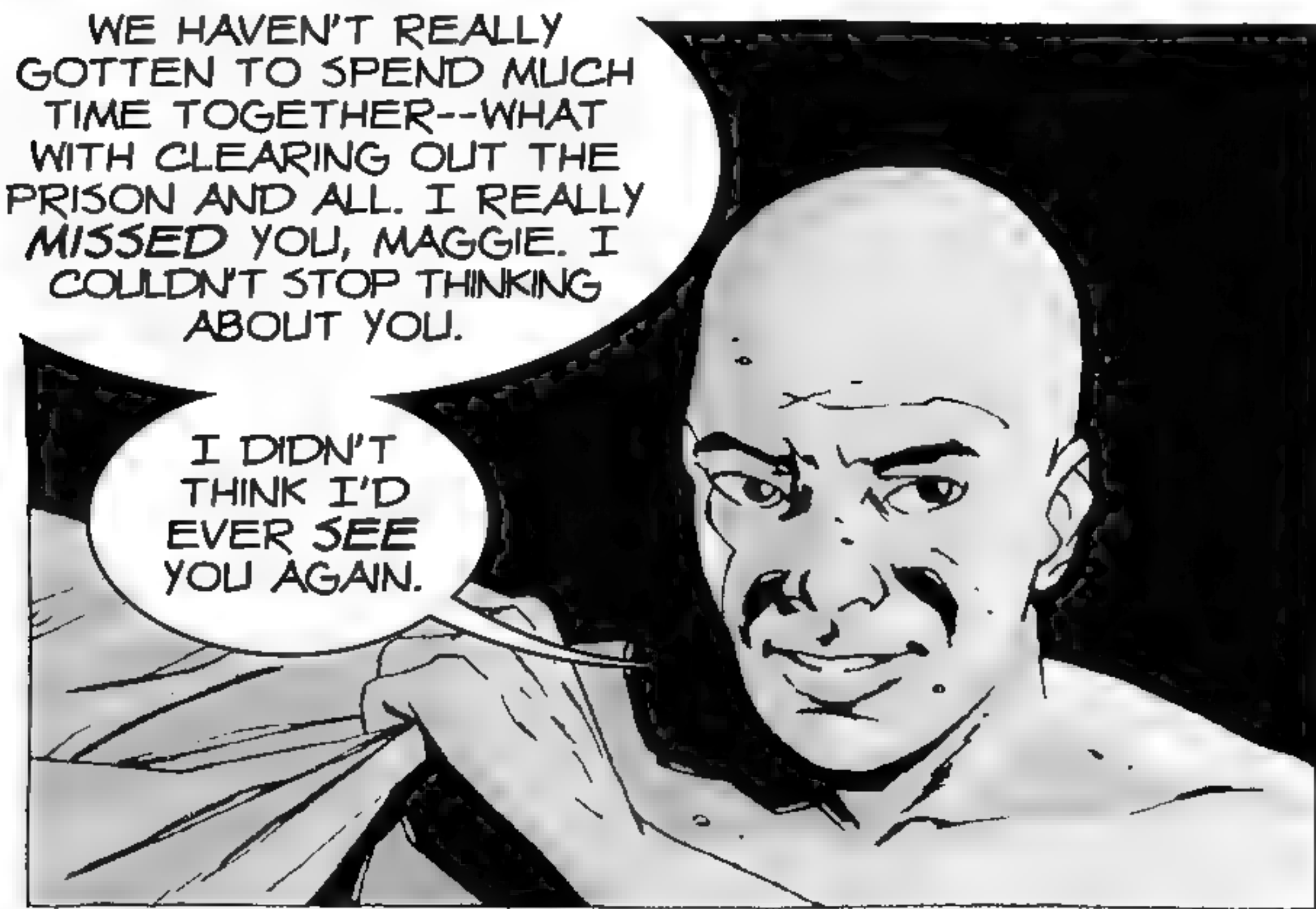
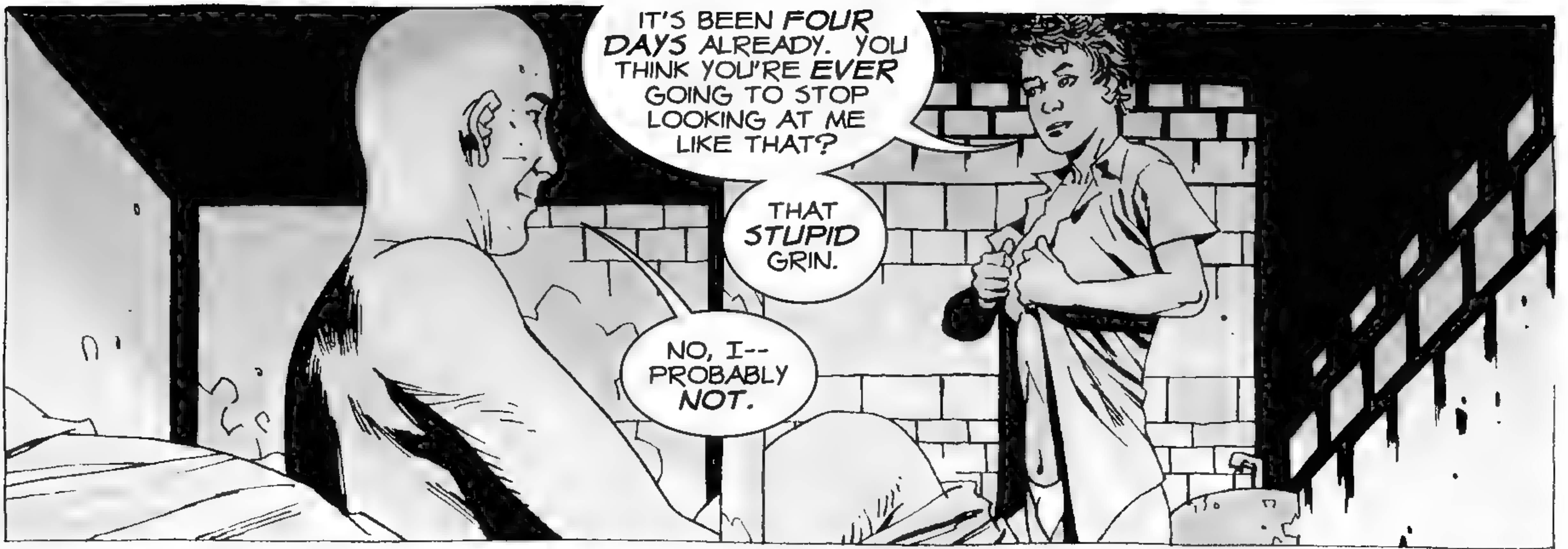
WHERE DO YOU GET OFF?

LOOK AT YOUR WIFE. YOU WANT TO RISK YOUR LIFE AGAIN? STAY HERE.

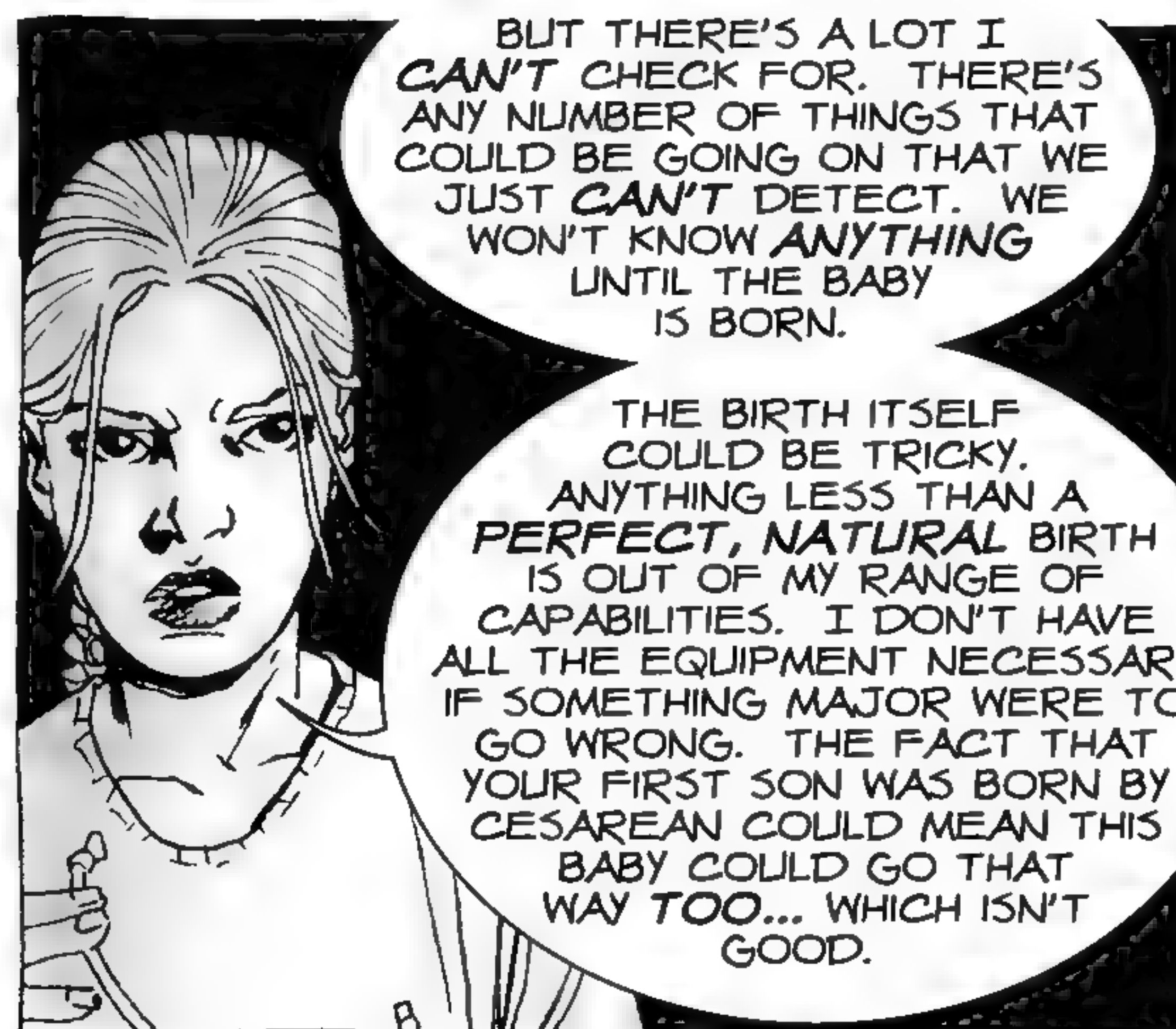
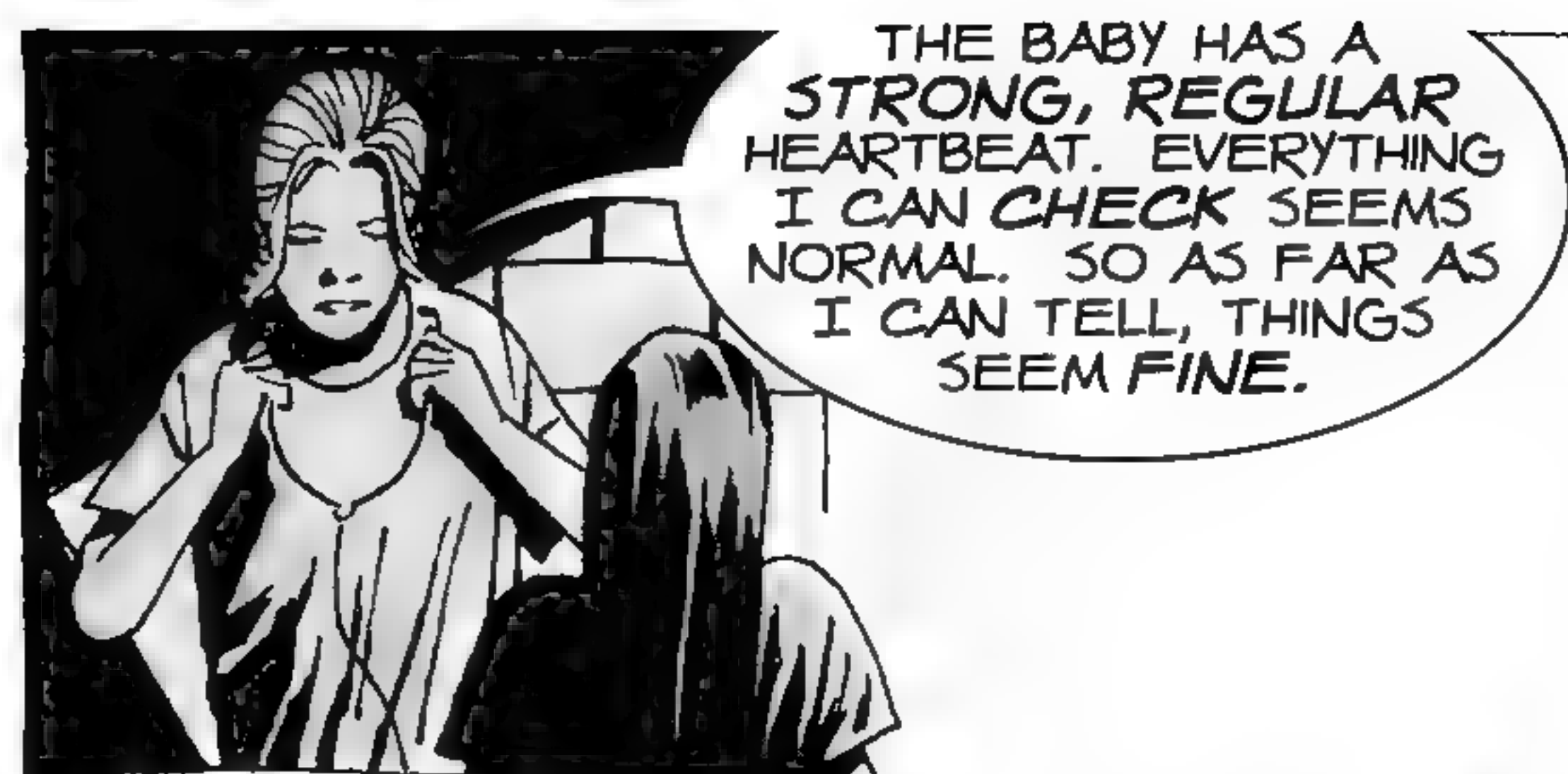
DON'T MAKE ME KNOCK YOUR ASS OUT.

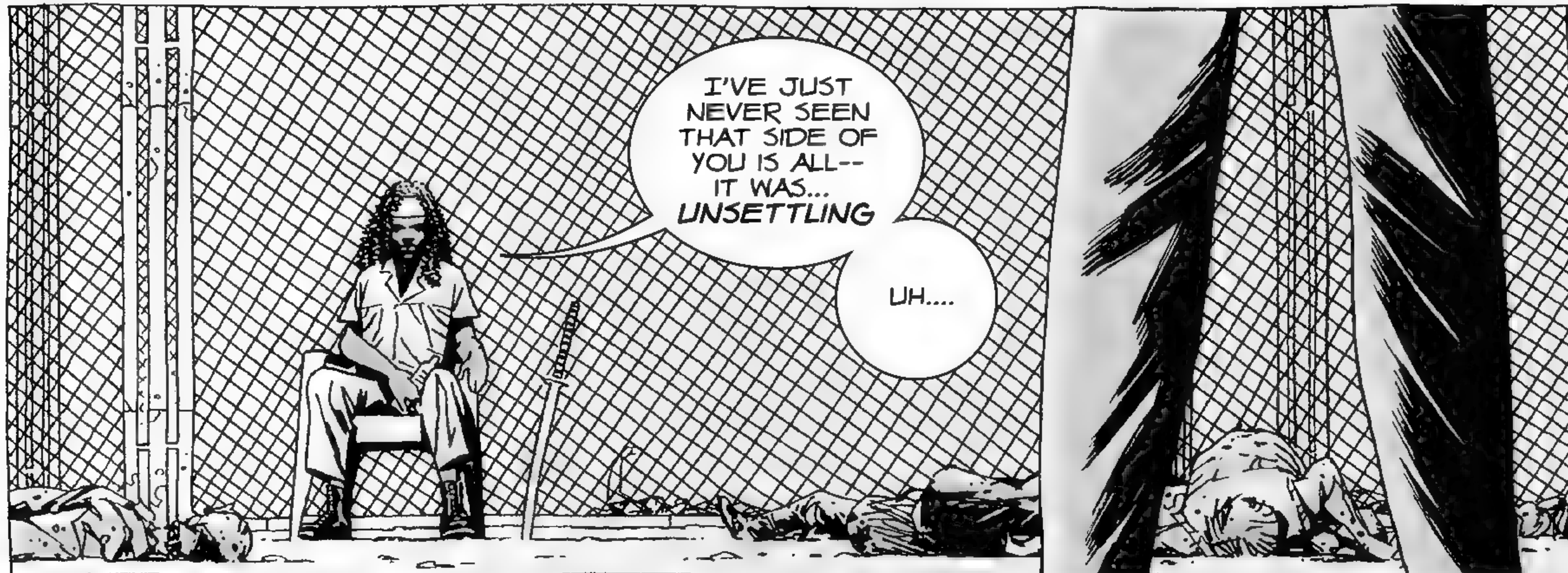


















I KNOW IT DOESN'T LOOK SAFE NOW--BUT WE'RE ALL WORKING TO CLEAR OUT THE AREA. WE'RE BURNING THE BODIES AND WE'LL EVENTUALLY CLOSE THE GATES AND THEN EVERYTHING WILL BE SAFE AGAIN.

THERE'S NOTHING TO BE SCARED OF, CARL. EVERYTHING WILL BE THE WAY IT USED TO BE. YOU'LL SEE.

I PROMISE.

OKAY, DAD. I BELIEVE YOU.



YOU GUYS QUITTING FOR THE DAY?

NAH-- JUST TAKING A **BREAK**. WE'RE GOING TO GET SOME WATER BEFORE WE **PASS OUT**.

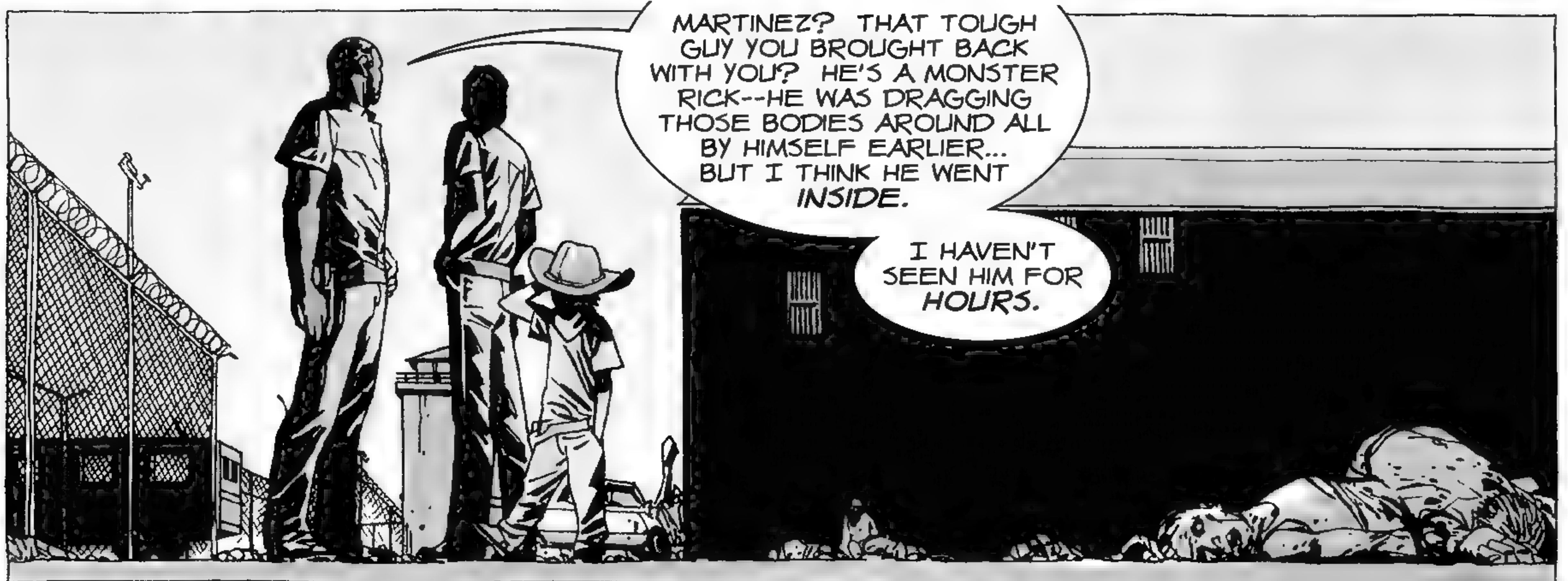


RICK, IT'S--IT'S GOOD TO HAVE YOU **BACK**, MAN. ALL THAT SHIT BETWEEN US BEFORE, I JUST WANTED TO SAY--I'M DONE WITH IT IF YOU ARE.

YEAH, TYREESE-- **ABSOLUTELY**. THAT MEANS A LOT TO ME.



WHERE'S MARTINEZ? WITH EVERYTHING THAT'S BEEN GOING ON--I DON'T THINK I'VE GOTTEN THE CHANCE TO INTRODUCE HIM TO **CARL**.



MARTINEZ? THAT TOUGH GUY YOU BROUGHT BACK WITH YOU? HE'S A MONSTER RICK--HE WAS DRAGGING THOSE BODIES AROUND ALL BY HIMSELF EARLIER... BUT I THINK HE WENT **INSIDE**.

I HAVEN'T SEEN HIM FOR **HOURS**.



# NEXT ISSUE



# LETTER HACKS

WRITE TO US AT:

THE WALKING DEAD  
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P.O. BOX 54386  
LEXINGTON, KY 40555-4386

OR

WALKINGDEAD@FUNKOTRON.COM

**We're on the cusp of being on schedule for the first time in a while! Again, I apologize for the sporadic shipping schedule of 2006. So far, 2007 is looking to totally make up for it though--but enough about boring schedule stuff.**

**CLAYBURN MOORE** sculptor extraordinaire (and sculptor of those lovely **WALKING DEAD** zombie busts) has recently completed his full-sized, full-body **RICK GRIMES** statue! I promise we'll be showing you photos **VERY VERY** soon, but for now, let me just say--**IT'S TOTALLY DAMN AWESOME!!** Granted, I would probably say that if it wasn't--I mean, we need to sell these things, and I really like Clayburn--but **I PROMISE** this statue will blow you away. It's simply amazing.

**I'll have price, ordering info and release dates for you very soon--so stay tuned!**

**Now--enough of that--let's answer us a bit of mail.**

Hey Robert.

I have been following TWD since issue 1 and have loved every step of the way. I just had to write in though, after reading the letters page to issue 32. It left me so bloody angry!

I was in shock at how people are accusing you of racism! When I read the issue in question, yes it was brutal. Yes I was shocked. But I just don't understand why people are writing in complaining the way they are.

One guy even mailed to say he was dropping the book! What the hell? First off, these are your characters. You can do whatever the hell you like to them. And of course it isn't a true story, but the world is a crap place. Domestic violence and rape happen every day. Surly surviving in the environment they are in is just as brutal? I see this book as a drama that includes the experiences of real life, just with them being set in a zombie ridden dystopia.

So, bad shit is gonna happen! It's not gonna stop just because Zombies are now the majority. And the "breaking down of a strong black woman to the lowest of the low" and "chocolate rape fantasy" comments! A woman got raped! It doesn't matter what race she is!

Sorry Robert, I just had to get my point across and let you know this is still one of the best books on the shelf.

Oh, and sorry there are so many exclamation marks, as well!!!!

Keep up the good work,  
Daniel

**I'm sure people are sick of reading about this at this point... and I certainly am. But I would like to just say that this book features a LOT of bad stuff happening to a LOT of people. The only way to ensure that nothing bad happens to the minority characters is to not HAVE any minority characters in the book. And that would be absurd.**

**I promise the next character to be raped will be a strong white male.**

---

Hi!

I discovered Walking dead long time ago in a comics shop in France. Comics in original version are hard to find, and zombie comics are more hard to find!

Actually, there are just the 1 to 6 issues which are translated in French. Sadly, the company who was in charge to translate is out of business and I'm in obligation to buy comics from England or USA.

Do you think that one day, another company will translate the comics in French ?

**I'm told DELCOURT will be taking over the French language publication of the book. I'm tickled pink--I LOVE Delcourt.**

In other ways, I'm a fan of all that talking about zombies, and I think you've done the best zombie's comic I've ever read!

Keep doing good job!

Laurence

**Thanks for writing--keep on the lookout for the Delcourt edition of the book.**

---

This one is gonna be a quicky... just wanted to let you know issue 33 made my stomach churn and feel bad after reading it. That was utterly disgusting. I LOVED IT!!! Keep it up cuz I bloody love this book.

Mr Lumpstastic

**It made my stomach turn, too. I'm glad you liked it.**

---

Dear Bob,

I love your work in INVINCIBLE and of course THE WALKING DEAD. This is the first time I've ever written a letter in to a comic so, yes, you popped my cherry, buddy \*blush\*. Your writing is great, love your plot twists and character development, but I'm sure you've heard all this many times before, so straight to the point then... issue #29. WAIT! Don't trash my letter yet! I know you've probably had your fill of letters about that issue but I want to address a letter in issue #32 written by Sundjata Abubakari concerning the rape of Michonne. I completely understand where you're coming from. As a writer, you don't want to be constrained by people's biases and fears, you just want to write a great story that will really move people. Being an artist myself I get that, BUT as a black man I also understand Sundjata's outrage as well.

The racism that black people have had to and still have to deal with from every form of media is very overwhelming. All the points he made about the white man's constant portrayal of the black woman as an over-sexed plaything are true. Comics are especially geared towards adolescent white males fantasies. All that being said, issue #29 was great writing like every other issue before it, but it also hit on a very big nerve, perhaps the biggest nerve in the states...white dominance over people of color. The imagery and situation reinforced a very negative and painful stereotype/fantasy. If you want the honest truth Mr.Kirkman a great deal of your white readers probably whacked off to that issue. Disgusting and Disturbing, but so is a great deal of America's History with people of color.

I'm not blaming you for that Mr. Kirkman, but my goal is to try to get you to understand. Cultural understanding and sympathy seem to be blindspots for many of us, unfortunately. I'm asking that you try to step out of yourself for a moment and look at this from another angle.

And please don't think I'm saying bad things should not happen to characters because of race(there was a black man that got shoot in cold blood by a white man in a past issue after all).

Thank you for taking the time to read this. I must stop reading the Walking Dead...

Still Invincible fan,  
Charles L.

**Okay... okay--this has gone to an all new level. I--I'm speechless, and what I'm talking about is THIS:**

**"If you want the honest truth Mr. Kirkman, a great deal of your white readers probably whacked off to that issue."**

**If you want the honest truth?! Really?! You know this to be the case? I am blown away by this statement. Are you saying that white people, in general, or as a WHOLE ("a great deal") hate black people SO MUCH that they would be aroused by the sight of a black female being brutalized?!**

**WHA--?!**

**That's ABSURD. I'm know there is racism in the world--I know it's a horrible thing and I KNOW I will never truly experience it myself and will never truly understand what it's like to be faced with it. But I don't for a MINUTE--not for a SECOND think that racism is so common that "a great deal" of white readers masturbate to drawings of a beaten up black woman's face.**

**That's horrific.**

**I don't even know what to say... next letter.**

---

Yo, Letter hacks,

I just read issue #32 and I can't believe it, but the book just keeps getting better. There's always a fear in the back of my head that the book will jump the shark or get boring and it just never happens. This is one of the only comics where an entire issue can be nothing but talk and still kick ass. Kirkman, you're my favourite writer in comics right now (This excludes Stan Lee), keep up the good work, man. Also, Charlie keeps getting better and better, I don't even miss Tony any more and that

is saying something; I'm most definitely picking up "Rock Bottom". Now I got some questions.

1) Glenn and Maggie obviously have sex pretty often. Are they using protection or taking any measures to make sure Maggie doesn't get pregnant or what?

**They bury a potato in the prison yard in the light of the full moon every month. That pretty much takes care of things. Really--it WORKS!**

2) Michonne is the most badass character in the book. I love that the Governor didn't break her spirit and that she went back for revenge; she's a great character, but how do you pronounce her name? I've been saying (mish-own-e). Is that right?

**I've said it like that before, but I'm told it's actually ME-SHAWN by people who actually know things about the French language. It's a French name--and I like it... that's really all I know. If any readers have a better interpretation I'd love to hear it.**

3) Was Lori such a bitch before the dead started rising or did that happen after?

**Heh.**

4) Any chance you could talk your boy McFarlane into producing a Walking Dead action figure set? We could get Rick with hatchet and removable hand, Michonne with katana and zombie companions, and of course, a talking Lori figure who bitches when you press her button. Please?

**I'll see what I can do. Don't hold your breath just yet, though.**

5) Andrew ran off like a punk bitch, if I recall. With the prison being so close to Woodbury, any chance the Governor got his ass?

**Who knows--it's certainly possible.**

6) Do you have one of those old school nicknames like they used to do in old Marvel books? Like "Rocksteady" Robert or "Kooky" Kirkman or somethin'? You need one, man, only then are you official.

**I have yet to be issued such a nickname.**

7) Is Rick gonna get a groovy chain-saw to fight off the Evil Dead?

**Nope--but thanks for playing.**

Alright, thanks for taking the time.

P.S. Invincible #33 was one of the single best superhero comics I ever read in my life. No shit.

P.P.S. I been reading comics since I was a kid and this is the first letter I've ever sent to one.

P.P.P.S. Sorry, but I gotta say, Ant-Man #2 was FUCKED UP. That guy is really irredeemable.

Peace,  
Jamal A. Shakir

**Yeah--you should all be out there buying The Irredeemable Ant-Man!**

---

Kirkman,

I am an avid reader of TWD. I read both the story and the letters page. The letters page in issue 32 has really pointed out your clear disregard for peoples' skin color and lifestyles. Sundjata Abubakari really opened my eyes to you and your bigot/racist ways!

I really didn't think much about the beating and raping of Michonne until recently. I figured that she was a fictitious character portrayed as a strong, independent woman who survived out in the vast and very dangerous world of zombie-ville, USA. I am sure you have a very large following of African American, sword wielding, independent, strong willed, educated, football-watching women in your mass of comic book reading fans, but what about the rest of us?!?

I have gone back and re-read the entire run of TWD and I have not seen a single, white, late 20's, skinny, pale, balding, video game controller wielding, 20 sided die rolling, message board posting, action figure collecting, basement of his parents living, comic book reading, male in your books!! Not even the living dead in your books match this vast group!! I expected at least one zombie walking around with a keyboard blogging his adventures as the undead.

Then again, if they were represented in zombie form, they would have gone through the pain and suffering of being eaten alive, left for dead, gone through the pain of dying, coming back to life as the undead only to have to deal with the pain of rigormortis, with an unending hunger for human flesh only to realize that all the good humans were eaten months ago or locked nicely in that prison over the hill (if we could only figure out how to open that fence). Clearly, I realize that beating and raping of one woman is much much worse than an eternity unending hunger and pain you have subjected on the masses of all other races, sexes, and cultures that 99.9% of undead people represented in your book!

But I bet your fans only concentrate on the pain and suffering of your living characters. The ones that you took the time to give a name, feelings, a background but most importantly the ability to use a

sword to chop up the living dead and the soon to be dead that happen to be living.

Your book is an adult book. It has adult content. It should have an adult audience. Your book is set in a desperate time. People should realize that desperate times call for desperate measures. I love the pain, misery, hopelessness, violence and gore of your book. If you lost any of that, we could rename it "Archie" and I wouldn't have to check every week to see if I GET to read your book.

Don't let the haters out there change the way you write this book.

As always, keep up the good work.  
Mike Gineman

**Thank you for the support, I do appreciate this.**

**Let me just say--when I wrote the issue, I didn't realize what a hot-button subject it would be. Rape, of course, is always going to be something that pushes people's buttons, but I didn't realize the fact that Michonne is black would make it that much worse.**

**I sympathize with the black community, despite whatever I've said before in these letters columns. I can't imagine how difficult it must be to deal with racism on a daily basis--and have it be such a prevalent part of your life.**

**But I don't think it's fair to expect me to acknowledge years of mistreatment and offensive representation in entertainment--and then allow THAT to guide my stories. I just want to do a comic book about survival in terrible--harsh situations. Call it irresponsible if you want--but I just want to tell my stories. It's impossible for me to consider the historical context of EVERYTHING I do in this book and anticipate how every single reader will interpret it.**

**You think this book is late now? If I started over thinking things to that degree--it'd NEVER come out.**

**Am I just digging myself a deeper hole by printing the letters dealing with this stuff? I can't even tell any more.**

---

Kirkman,  
I want to start this out by saying I'm a huge fan of INVINCIBLE - I honestly think it's the best comic being published right now. It is superbly paced, it always features action of some sort, and its characters are archetypal without being stereotypical; it's excellent.

Now for the criticism: I have been following THE

WALKING DEAD since issue one. I was a huge fan of the Zombie genre in those days, and I loved it from the moment I picked it up. But that love has been dwindling steadily since Rick & Company reached the prison complex. I understand that the Warren Ellis-ization of comics has been going on for nearly a decade now, but c'mon Kirkman! The decompression is KILLING ME on this book. Issue thirty-two encompasses a whole *fifteen minutes* in the lives of the characters, which would be fine if it didn't equate to a month of my life spent waiting. By my count, this story arc has been going on for eight issues, from the moment the helicopter first appeared. It could have been done in three. The result is that twenty five percent of the issues contain five percent of the total storyline. To me, this is a major disappointment's from a book that seemed positively incredible after issue five.

Ryan Dolley, Detroit MI

**I seriously doubt the story from 25 to 32 could be told--without cutting out important stuff, in three issues. You're certainly entitled to your opinion, but I'm just not sure that's an accurate statement. There will always be an important 30 minutes in this series--that DESERVES a whole issue--and then there will be issues that take place over a matter of weeks.**

**But this ISN'T a finite series that's building toward a climactic end. This series is about the journey and experiences of the characters--and when something important is happening to them--that will have immense consequences on future issues... I'm going to take my time.**

---

**And that's it for me pissing off people this month!**

**I'll leave you with a preview for THE PIRATES OF CONEY ISLAND which begins on the next page. This is a great series written by Rick Spears and drawn by Vasilis Lolos. Rick is the writer and co-creator of TEENAGERS FROM MARS which is an EXCELLENT book--and DEAD WEST and some other books that are quite good. This one is no different.**

**So enjoy the preview and I'll see you back here in a week or so for issue 36.**

**No--really.**

**-Robert Kirkman**



EMPIRE